

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 3 - 5 and 8 - 9 and enter new claims 10 - 14 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The front assembly as recited in claim 10 [1], wherein the panels ~~(8)~~ comprise a bumper casing ~~(8)~~ that at least partially covers the beam structure ~~(5)~~.

3. – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The front assembly as recited in claim 10 [4], wherein the first ~~(28)~~ and second openings (29) ~~opening~~ in the female part ~~(27)~~ together form an essentially keyhole ~~formed~~ shaped opening.

7. (Currently Amended) The front assembly as recited in claim 10 [4], wherein the male part ~~(21)~~ has an essentially circular cylindrical shape.

8. – 9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) A front assembly for a heavy vehicle (1), comprising:

a stiff, force-absorbing beam structure having at least a first fastening member comprising a male part including a handle and a head having a cross-sectional area exceeding the cross-sectional area of the handle, the head further including a rear flange surface facing the handle;

a longitudinal frame having a longitudinal axis and a forward portion including at least a second fastening member arranged to receive the male part protruding therein to guide the beam structure to a predetermined position essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the second fastening member having a female part including a first opening, the dimensions of which essentially correspond to the cross-sectional area of the head, the female part further including a second opening formed in the second fastening member as a slot communicating with the first opening and having a contact surface and a slot width sized to receive the handle of the male part for contact of the rear flange surface against the contact surface of the second fastening member; and

a front module supported by the beam structure, the front module comprising a plurality of components selected from the group consisting of footsteps, headlight units and panels, said plurality of components being accurately placed in prescribed positions based on predetermined positions therefore.

11. (New) The front assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the front module further comprises an extension beam structure attached to the underside of the beam structure extending downwards therefrom.

12. (New) The front assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the at least a second fastening member comprises a male part including a handle and a head having a cross-sectional area exceeding the cross sectional-area of the handle, the head further including a rear flange surface facing the handle, the male part protruding essentially horizontally into the at least a first fastening member, that has a female part including a first opening the dimensions of which essentially correspond to the cross-sectional area of the head the female part further including a second opening formed in the at least a first fastening member as a slot communicating with the first opening and having a contact surface and a slot width sized to receive the handle of the male part for contact of the rear flange surface against the contact surface of the at least a first fastening member.

13. (New) A method for assembling a front assembly of a heavy vehicle comprising the steps of:

providing a beam structure including a plurality of components selected from the group consisting of headlight units, footsteps and panels pre-assembled at fixed points on the beam structure to form a front module, the beam structure further including at least a first fastening member comprising a male part including a handle and a head having a cross-sectional area exceeding the cross-sectional area of the handle, the head further including a rear flange surface facing the handle;

providing a longitudinal frame having a longitudinal axis and a forward portion including at least a second fastening member to receive the male part, the second fastening member having a female part including a first opening, the dimensions of which essentially correspond to the cross-sectional area of the head, the female part further including a second opening formed in the second fastening member as a slot communicating with the first opening and having a contact surface and a slot width sized to receive the handle of the male part for contact of the rear flange surface against the contact surface of the second fastening member;

inserting the male part into the first opening;

sliding the handle into the slot to firmly engage the at least a first fastening member to the at least a second fastening member to fix the beam structure and the front module against the forward portion, in a predetermined position essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis wherein there is contact of the rear flange surface against the contact surface of the second fastening member; and

securing the beam structure and the module to the forward portion of the longitudinal frame.

14. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the securing the beam structure and the module includes tightening a connection selected from the group consisting of screwed and bolted connections.